

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 AF-10 NEA-10

EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /108 W

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O P 261555Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7361

INFO NAM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5479

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG

SUBJ: BELGRADE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE: DAY I, JULY 25, EXTENDED
SESSION ON WESTERN SAHARA

REF: BELGRADE 5451

1. FOLLOWING OPENING SPEECHES (REFTEL), CONFERENCE
RECONVENED AT PLENARY MINISTERIAL LEVEL AT 4:00 PM JULY 25
TO APPROVE WORK OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (AGENDA, ELECTION
OF CONFERENCE OFFICERS, ETC). CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF WHETHER
OR NOT THE QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA SHOULD REMAIN ON THE
AGENDA ESCALATED INTO FULL SCALE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ON THAT
ISSUE, NECESSITATING NIGHT SESSION WHICH MET FROM 10:30 PM
TT ALMOST MIDNIGHT.

2. ACCORDING TO TANJUG ACCOUNT, THE ISSUE WAS DEALT WITH
AS FOLLOWS: "THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE, AFTER
CONSULTATIONS WITH DELEGATIONS, PROPOSED THAT AS FAR AS THE
QUESTION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA IS CONCERNED, THE RESOLUTION
OF THE RECENT SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
UNITY IN KHARTOUM BE SUPPORTED. THE BUREAU PROPOSES THAT
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(THE BELGRADE NAM CONFERENCE) SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION IN
ALL ITS PARTS, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
FORMED AT THE AFRICAN SUMMIT WILL FIND AN EQUITABLE AND
PEACEFUL SOLUTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CHARTER OF
THE UN, DECISIONS OF THE NONALIGNMENT MOVEMENT, AND THE
RESOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNIT. THIS
PARAGRAPH IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DECLARATION OF THE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE."

3. THE NAM CONFERENCE WILL CONVENE AGAIN IN PLENARY MORNING JULY 26 TO REVIEW A REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU SINCE THE FIFTH NONALIGNED SUMMIT AT COLOMBO, INCLUDING ITS WORK IN THE CAPACITY OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BELGRADE MEETING, AND WILL ALSO ACT ON APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR STATUS IN THE NAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TWO CONFERENCE COMMITTEES--THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY INDIA, AND THE ECONOMIC, CHAIRED BY GUYANA, WILL ALSO MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE MORNING JULY 26.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE APPARENT DECISION ON THE SAHARA QUESTION, WE ARE BY NO MEANS CONVINCED THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE IS IN FACT ENDED FOR THIS CONFERENCE. THE SUBJECT WAS THE ONLY SERIOUS POINT OF CONTENTION OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE WHICH AROSE DURING DISCUSSIONS IN THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON THE AGENDA. IT HAS NOW NECESSITATED A SPECIAL SESSION ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE. WHILE, WE SUSPECT, NONE BUT A STALWART FEW ON EITHER SIDE OF THIS INTRACTABLE ISSUE WOULD WISH TO SPEND MORE OF THE CONFERENCE'S TIME ON IT, THE RELATIVE OPENNESS AND LOOSELY STRUCTURED NATURE OF NAM PROCEEDINGS PROVIDE NO INSURANCE THAT IT WILL NOT AGAIN FLARE UP.
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